

## Reveries of a Bachelor on Woman's Suffrage.

"American fathers are not conspicuous on auction days in the matrimonial market at Newport, where American wealth and feminine patriotism are bartered for titles. Why? Because our fathers believe and teach their sons to believe in the Republic. They practice what they preach. Why are woman so fickle in patriotism while men are steadfast? Who can answer?

"Is it because the women are more ambitious as some declare? Humiliating as it is, it is a fact that to supply the American girls with titles has cost in cash more than one of our wars with England. Yet women want to vote.

"Nevertheless let the dear women marry whom they choose, but until they repent of this sin, I, who with blissful forbearance pay taxes for the benefit of other people's children, consider it a personal privilege to "kick" against their voting."

"Prince Colombo, ROME, ITALY.—Such was his signature and address on the register of one of the fashionable hotels, heir of noble Italian blood, and the descendant of Christopher Columbus. In his far-off home he had on various public occasions expressed himself in terms similar to those of the young Emperor of Germany, that monarchs govern the people by a decree from God. Yet, after living a quarter of a century under these favorable decrees, he was so unfortunate as to find himself without employment with a very small bank account. The great question which then agitated the grey matter of his brain more than anything else was, how to emerge from the stringency in the money market until Providence created a vacancy in the noble family of Italy for his benefit.

"He despised the Republic of the United States for being so penurious as to fail to grant a pension to a distinguished but indigent Spanish relative of Columbus, who had lost everything save his noble honor to bull fight, but down deep in his heart he believed

that if a certain class of woman in America had been in power in Congress in 1877, he, along with many other Italian representatives of the Columbus family, would not now be suffering from financial depression.

“The money question drove him almost to desperation — stern reality, not a theory, was now staring the young prince in the face. Was he equal to the emergency of the hour? He was. He bade adieu to his native land, where titles are plenty and heiresses few, and sailed for the States, determined to fight this poverty problem to a finish.”

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“The prince was royally entertained and his campaign of love-making commenced under favorable auspices. There was a striking similarity between the actions of the society lady of this time and the French people years ago when France was under a monarchical government. The French disputed who were to be and who were not to be kissed by the Queen, who should help the King to put on his shirt, who should hold his basin, etc.

“Now, the women at the hotel actually quarrelled, if they did not fight, about who should have the honor of sitting near the prince when he ate his meals. Disputes were of daily occurrence; and at one time, owing to the actions of a couple of Canadian ladies, it looked as if the affair might terminate in an international question to be settled by arbitration or by war.

“The head waiter very adroitly let it be known that the women who desired to have the high honor of sitting close to the Prince at meal-time must send him their tips a day in advance, that the bigger the fee the closer the seat, and that all contracts would be scrupulously carried out.

“To show how a title-worshipping sentiment takes hold of the society ladies and compels them to part with their money, it is only necessary to state that when the season closed at Newport the head waiter bought a hotel.”

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“Prince Colombo and Miss Sorosis Blackstone sat in the library of the latter's villa night after night discussing nearly everything, from the power and limitations of the constitution to occult science.



*He.*—"But I am told that a wife can hold property in her own right and do business independent of her husband."

*She.*—"Yes, that is so, the law in that way is very humane, and she can even sell her property in New York without her husband's signature to the deed."

*He.*—"Does the law let the husband sell his property without his wife's signature?"

*She.*—"Indeed it don't, the idea! man needs a woman to look after him so he cannot squander his property," as an intellectual smile lit up her face.

*He.*—"Who looks after the wife to keep her from squandering her property?"

*She.*—"Why, Prince, she don't need anyone, she has brains of her own; and the law compels a husband to pay his wife's debts, too, and in case of a divorce she gets alimony."

*He.*—"But suppose the husband is poor and the wife has property, doesn't the law then compel the wife to pay her husband's debts?"

*She.*—"Indeed it does not, the women of this country have stood tyranny enough without such absurd law as that. We woman's rights advocates have taught the men of this country a little sense, and before we are through with them will teach them a good deal more."

*He.*—"Suppose a bill became a law giving the women all the privileges that men enjoy, would not that be equal rights?"

*She.*—"Of course it would be equal rights, that is what we women are fighting for."

*He.*—"Well, it seems to me if equal rights mean anything, it means that a rich husband must pay his poor wife's debts and a rich wife her poor husband's debts, and in case of a divorce, give him alimony."

*She.*—"No, no, Prince, you have the wrong ideas; if we women get the right to vote at all elections, the law in this particular will remain as it is—the husband must pay the wife's debts, but the wife not the husband's."

*He.*—(in great excitement.) "Would it not make a difference who the American lady marries?"

*She.*—"Oh, Prince, keep cool, you have the wrong idea again;

the statutory law, it is true, applies to American husbands, but there is an unwritten law among American women to pay all debts of their titled foreign husbands. When we women get in power this unwritten law will become statutory and apply to titled foreign husbands only. Is not that satisfactory?"

*He.*—"Yes, yes, there is no doubt in my mind that American women like you, Miss Sorosis Blackstone, are far ahead of the American men in jurisprudence."

*She.*—"Indeed we are, Prince, and we intend to stay ahead."

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"Now, why is it that a woman's convention always points out with great gusto the shortcomings of men, but never mentions a single fact that women ever possess opinions incompatible with our form of government? Why don't you reform-ladies denounce those women who have in the last few years taken to Europe to buy titles two hundred billions? If you want to vote, and really believe in a republic, denounce at least once these denationalized title-loving American women. You turn a deaf ear to the protest of father, brother, country, and you kick the constitution sky-high in your eagerness to marry a Prince or some other titled pauper. Yet your orators go forth shouting that women should vote and be allowed to expound the constitution to the rising generation. Those capable of such mental exertion should first expound it to their erring sisters. There is plenty of room for missionary work in this country.

"Probably a certain society lady of Chicago was right, after all, when she, on being asked why she married a Frenchman with an obsolete title instead of a man of her own country, replied, "To be candid I will tell you, this marrying American men all the time makes me tired."

"The truth is plain to anyone that the great majority of American women do not want to be placed on an equality with the men, for they are sensible and know that equality means equal hardship. They know that what laws may be necessary to protect their interests, from time to time, will be made as in the past without their votes. These noble American women fear no evil, for they have implicit confidence in those who have in the past protected them—their loyal fathers and brothers."